

District. In the early years of his judgeship, I again had the opportunity to argue cases before his court. He was a firm but fair judge, always treated everyone who came before him with great respect. Herb Small served as resident Superior Court judge for 17 long years and was elected president of the North Carolina Conference of Superior Court Judges and represented the Conference on the North Carolina Policy and Sentencing Commission. I am proud to have been able to call Judge Small my judicial colleague when I became a judge after I was elected as a resident Superior Court judge in 1988. While Judge Small preceded me on the bench by almost a decade, he welcomed me among the ranks and always offered guidance and insight.

Judge Small served as chairman of the Albemarle Hospital board of directors and as chairman of the American Red Cross Chapter. He has been actively engaged in other civic, charitable, and service organizations, including Jaycees, Boy Scouts, Volunteer Firemen, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Elks Club, and Red Men. He was given the Distinguished Service Award by the Jaycees, the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Chamber of Commerce, and the Order of Long Leaf Pine by our great State of North Carolina for outstanding community involvement. During World War II, Judge Small served 3 years in the United States Navy.

Judge Small has been married for 57 years to Mrs. Annette Ward Small, a very delightful lady. They have four children, Elizabeth, John, Fran, and Carol; and they have nine grandchildren.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank the gentlewoman for the additional minute. When I get talking about Judge Small, I get carried away, Mr. Speaker. He's such a dear friend.

Judge Small has been married for 57 years to Mrs. Annette Ward Small. They have four children, and I mentioned their names. They have nine grandchildren, Rachel, Matthew, John, Mary, Margaret, Ruth, Allison, Katie, and Chris.

I can think of no finer individual, no person who's more deserving of this honor than Judge J. Herbert Small. The people of Elizabeth City and the First Congressional District of North Carolina are grateful for his commitment to community and his great and extraordinary leadership.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I would be remiss without thanking the gentleman from North Carolina for his persistence, for his leadership, for fighting for this. And as you have heard today he does so with great passion for someone who he admired greatly.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 813, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 306 East Main Street, in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "J. Herbert W. Small Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

Judge Small has been a life-long resident of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and has dedicated 52 years to civil service.

He served in the United States Navy for three years during World War II and, after leaving the service, received a law degree from the University of North Carolina Law School at Chapel Hill.

In 1949, he began his legal career as a Special Counsel to the Congressional Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and later served for eight years as a county attorney for Pasquotank County.

In 1979, he was elected Superior Court Judge of the First Judicial District of North Carolina, and served in that position for 17 years.

Throughout his life, Judge Small has been an active volunteer, serving on the Board of Directors of the Albemarle Hospital, and the American Red Cross. He has received numerous awards and honors from the Jaycees, the Boy Scouts, Volunteer Fireman, Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary and Elks clubs.

In the 110th Congress, the House passed a similar bill but, unfortunately, the Senate was unable act on the legislation. I would like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for reintroducing this bill.

Judge Small is an outstanding mentor and volunteer. For over five decades, he has been an exceptional jurist and civic leader. It is fitting and proper to honor his outstanding contributions with this designation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 813.

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Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 813.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RONALD H. BROWN UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS BUILDING

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 837) to designate the Federal building located at 799 United Nations Plaza in New York,

New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 837

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 799 United Nations Plaza in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 837.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 837, a bill to designate the U.S. Mission to the United Nations Building located at 799 United Nations Plaza, New York City, New York, as the Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building.

We all acknowledge Ron Brown as an extraordinary man. He wore many hats—lawyer, pragmatic bridge builder, statesman, mentor and trusted and true friend. As we are all aware, he was the first African American Secretary of Commerce. In that position he became a powerful and influential voice for promoting American products and trade abroad.

He left the National Urban League in 1979 to work for Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY, who sought the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination. In 1981, Brown began a career as a lawyer and lobbyist. In 1988, he was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee. From 1989 to 1992, he served as chairman and used his skills as a negotiator and pragmatic bridge builder to help reunite the Democratic Party after its defeat in the 1988 Presidential election.

In 1993, President William J. Clinton appointed Ron Brown as Secretary of Commerce. During his tenure, Secretary Brown effectively utilized and expanded the role of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Secretary Brown

was known for his amiable political style and his deft skill in negotiations. As secretary, he used these qualities effectively to promote U.S. trade, expand foreign markets for American businesses and spur domestic job growth and economic development.

Secretary Brown's life was tragically ended in April 1996 when he was killed in a plane crash while in service to his country. It is fitting and proper we honor his civic contributions by this designation, and I urge passage of H.R. 837.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As you just heard from the gentlewoman from Maryland, this bill names the Federal building located in the United Nations Plaza in New York as the Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building.

This bill has already passed the House once before and, as you have heard the explanation, here it is in front of us.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 837, a bill to designate the United States Mission to the United Nations Building located at 799 First Avenue, New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building".

Enactment of this legislation is long overdue. I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for his steadfastness in supporting this bill. Congressman RANGEL introduced similar bills in the 108th, 109th, and 110th Congresses.

Last Congress, the House passed H.R. 735, to designate the United States Mission to the United Nations in honor of Ron Brown. Unfortunately, the Senate was unable to act on the bill. I am pleased that today we will again pass this bill and pay a fitting tribute to the life and achievements of this extraordinary American.

Ron Brown was a man who served his country in many capacities: lawyer, pragmatic bridge builder, statesman, mentor, and trusted friend.

He may be best known for his service as the first African-American Secretary of Commerce. In that position, he became a powerful and influential voice for promoting American products and trade abroad. He championed expanding markets for U.S. goods and services, in order to increase job opportunities and foster job creation here at home.

He also served President Clinton on the National Economic Council, the Domestic Policy Council, the Task Force on National Health Care Reform, the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, and the U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee.

Secretary Brown served on the Board of Trustees for Middlebury College and received his law degree from St. John's University in New York City. Prior to entering public service, he worked as a welfare caseworker in New York City.

In addition to his many talents and strengths, Secretary Brown was a passionate civil rights activist with a distinguished record of service to his community. His commitment to this nation and its citizens provides a model for us all.

Secretary Brown's life tragically ended in April 1996, when he was killed in a plane crash in Croatia while on an official Department of Commerce trade mission.

The Department of State requested that Secretary Brown personally undertake the trade mission to highlight and find opportunities for U.S. businesses to boost economic reconstruction of the war torn region of former Yugoslavia.

Congress has previously designated four Federal buildings that serve as Department of State facilities. In 2000, Congress designated the Department of State headquarters as the "Harry S Truman Federal Building" (P.L. 106-218). In 2004, Congress designated the Foreign Service Institute as the "George P. Schultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center" (P.L. 108-136). In 2005, Congress designated the United States Embassy Annex in Rome, Italy, as the "Mel Sembler Building" (P.L. 108-447) and designated the Federal building in Kingston, Jamaica, as the "Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza" (P.L. 109-89).

Secretary Brown died in service to his country. It is fitting and proper to honor this Federal building as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building". I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 837.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remaining part of my time.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 837.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

R. JESS BROWN UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 842) to designate the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 842

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Courthouse to be constructed at the site bounded on the north by Court Street, on the west by West Street, on the south by South Street, and on the east by President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 842.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 842, a bill to designate the courthouse to be built in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse. Attorney Brown was a towering figure in the history of the civil rights movement in the South and especially in Mississippi. He was a native son of Kansas, born in Coffeyville, Kansas, and raised in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He received his law degree from Texas Southern University and practiced law in Mississippi in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

As Associate Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Brown filed the first civil rights suit in Mississippi in the 1950s in Jefferson Davis County seeking the enforcement of the right of black citizens to become registered voters.

In 1961, Brown represented James H. Meredith in his suit to be allowed to enter the University of Mississippi. His victory in this case opened the doors of that university to all of Mississippi's citizens.

While with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he played a major role in fighting discrimination in the areas of transportation and other public accommodations working alongside Thurgood Marshall, who had later become Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

During his lifetime, he received numerous awards and honors, including the NAACP's Lawyer of the Year award, National Bar Association C. Francis Stradford Award, which is their highest award, and Mississippi Teachers Association award for extraordinary service to education in Mississippi.

I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to join me to pass H.R. 842.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we just heard, this bill names the United States Courthouse to be constructed in Jackson, Mississippi, as the R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse.